

Great Lakes coastlines: Focal areas

Great Lakes Program, The Nature Conservancy

Outcomes

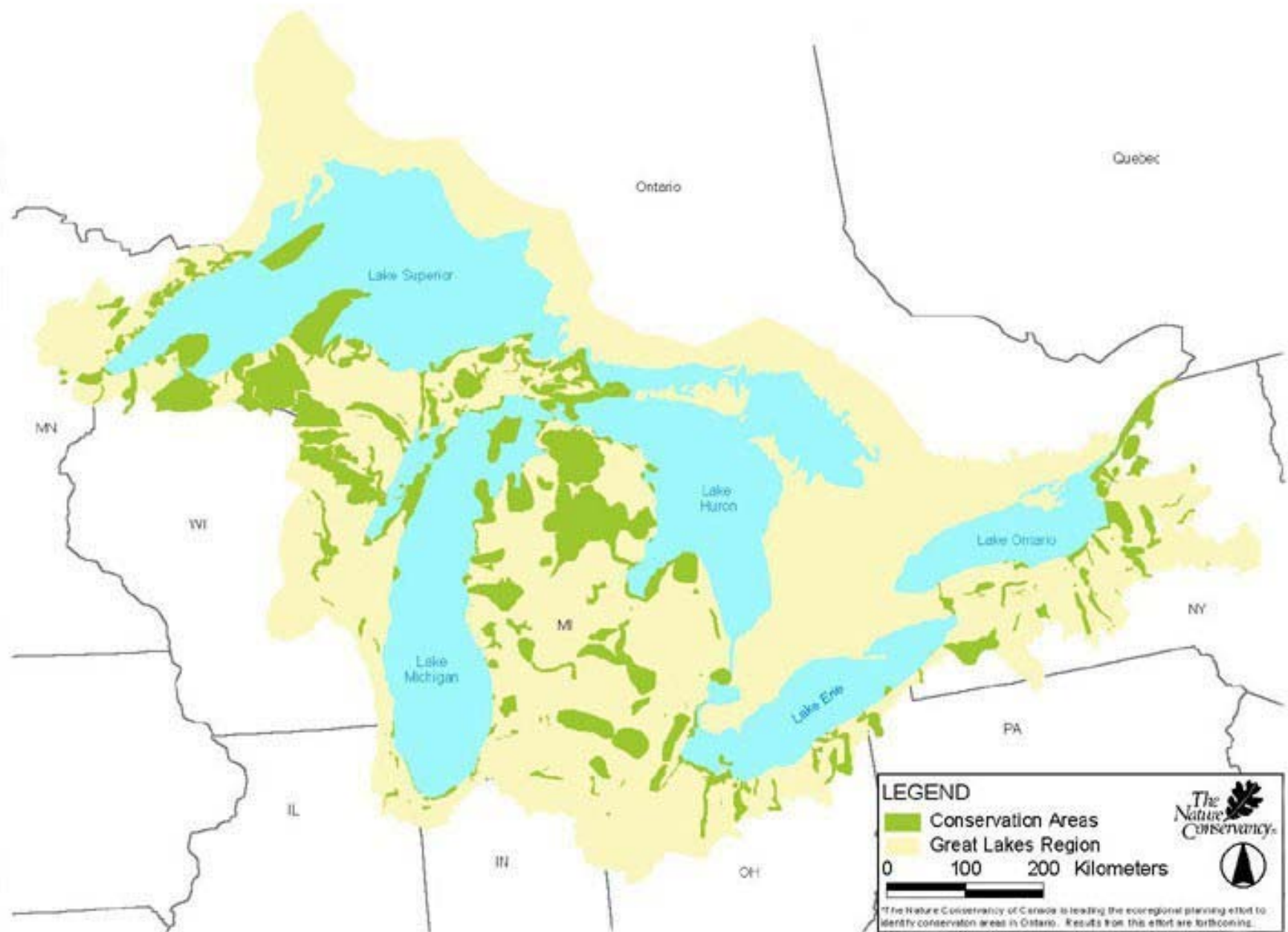
- Where to focus on coastlines?
- What multi-site strategies?
- Collaboration – others working on identifying critical/vulnerable Great Lakes coastlines.

Why focus on Great Lakes coastlines/coastal landscapes?

- Species/communities (terrestrial and aquatic) of global conservation interest
- High, increasing threat
- High interest, good opportunity
- Diminishing purchase power

Potential steps to action

- Build on Great Lakes ecoregion blueprints, Biodiversity investment areas, AOCs
- Identify stressors to coastlines
- Identify most vulnerable coastlines
- Identify conservation strategies, partners
- Identify indicators
- Implement at highest priority places



Identifying vulnerable/threatened coastlines: potential considerations

- Coastline types relatively unprotected
- Supporting natural processes relatively unprotected
- Coastal areas (terrestrial and aquatic) threatened by anthropogenic change: coastal processes, fragmentation & lack of connectivity
- Erovable shores
- River mouths
- Great Lakes marshes
- Spawning, nursery areas – fishes
- Watershed
- Climate change

Follow-up

- Workshop to better define critical, vulnerable coastline issues?
- Who else is working on these issues?
- Build on lessons learned from existing work
- Who is interested in working with us?
- Use this information to focus future work